

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Smear campaigns about anyone, including a candidate for the presidency, are NOT acceptable. This company cannot get away with this! What is happening to our democracy? If people feel that a show like this needs to be aired, show something like Fahrenheit 911 afterwards. Then hold a public forum, and discuss the pros and cons of both shows. But to show only one (extreme) side of an issue is unfair and insulting to TV viewers. How stupid do these people think we are?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.